From Angry Zionists to International Popstars: Meet the Mess Discusses the Gaza War
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From Angry Zionists to International Popstars: Meet the Mess Discusses the Gaza War

by lefemmerouge2

Summary

Nristen Snelker had only recently become a host of Meet the Mess, with the network glad they had chosen someone who was a woman of color, rather than a White man (who had been hosts for over 50 years). She faced with one of the toughest discussions of her career about Israel's brutal and genocidal assault in Gaza, complete with angry Zionists, international popstars, and legal analysts. Can she hold it together or will it all fall apart?

Notes

I based what Mara Trong said on what Tara Strong ACTUALLY said on social media (specifically her Twitter account), and her justified firing by Boxtown for her posts that "promote controversial messages regarding the peoples of Palestine." My idea for this fic was that the characters, all of whom Strong has voiced, come to different conclusions than what she said on social media, and to bring awareness to Israel's openly genocidal actions in Gaza (and Palestine more broadly). I based what each of these characters said, and the organizations they worked for, on their personalities in the actual series, with a range from more radical (as is the case for Ashi's character) to more reactionary (as is the case for Tanya's character), considering the usual views shown on the show parodied here. In some cases, I added applicable last names, even if they aren't there originally. I decided to use all the characters I know, as there are some characters that she voiced which I don't know off hand and/or haven't watched those shows. I know this fic may ruffle some feathers, but I care little about that, to be perfectly honest. Those feathers need to be ruffled. As a warning, this story is very quote heavy (to align with what an actual broadcast would be like). I didn't cover every part of what is happening, but I still covered a lot of ground here. NOTE: Knowledge of the six fandoms in this story is NOT necessary to understand this fic.

Comments are welcome and appreciated. However, I will not accept the whims of certain people telling me I am "wrong" on this topic. Negative comments will not be published.

Update on 12/13/24: This fic was cross-posted on Squidge World and has been updated to the version posted there.

Update #2 on 12/22/24: My latest Kim Possible fic, which brings together Kim, her dad, and Monique, as her ideas about the Russia-Ukraine war are challenged, is out, and entitled "James the Gleeful "Freedom Soldier," Ukraine, and Kim's Quandary. Thanks to everyone for reading this fic!

See the end of the work for more notes

"Welcome to Meet the Mess. I'm Nristen Snelker. As our viewers know, the conflict in Gaza has been heating up as of late, with tempers flaring on both sides, which has impacted people at home. This includes one Canadian American award-winning actress, Mara Trong, who was recently fired from an indie animation production for her views on the conflict. In social media posts, she condemned the 'brutal slaughter' by Hamas, who she described as 'fucking terrorists' and said that anyone who supported their actions were 'brainwashed.' In addition, she said she prayed for peace, declared that people had lost their minds, stated that people could help Palestinians without supporting terrorism, and noted, repeatedly, that she fully stood with Israel. After she learned she was fired for posting controversial messages on social media about Palestinians, which some argued were Islamophobic, she claimed that it was for anti-Semitic reasons, Those charges were denied by the pilot's co-writer, Mencer Bothball, who noted the Jewish members on the show's crew and staff.

"To get a different perspective and dive into the subject, we are starting our panel sooner than usual, rather than interviewing a guest. Today, we have: Ilana Lunis, an international law analyst at the Sherman Law Institute; Britina, international popstar and founder of the Purples for Peace charity organization; Plum Bisessuale, Chief Organizer of Organizzazione Aliena Viola; Ashi of Cambion Remembrances Inc.; and Tanya Bendersnoot, CEO of the Legless Foundation.

"Let's start with Ms. Lunis. What is your response to what happened to Ms. Trong and her firing by an animated production for expressing her views on social media?"

The camera panned to a blond-haired 20-something woman. Her black eyes stared at the viewer, and she was very collected, as an outspoken and earnest person.

"Obviously, Ms. Trong has her right to express her own views. Freedom of expression is the bedrock of our society, as we all know. Still, the production had the legal right to terminate her employment, as they are not bound by the First Amendment. Beyond that…"

A gleeful grin went across Tanya Bendersnoot’s face. She was chomping at the bit and couldn’t stop herself from jumping in. She had no qualms in interrupting others.

"You can say that, Ms. Lunis, but you are clearly missing the reality! People are either on the side of humanity or hatred. You are either with the terrorists or against them. It is that simple."

Britina shook her head, with her purple scrunchie moving from side to side. She was usually very down-to-earth, which served her well in her business empire, which included a magazine, a doll line, music CDs, albums, movie financing, and now a charity organization. She couldn’t let Ms. Bendersnoot’s claims stand.

"Surely, it is simple, but we must have a permanent ceasefire as Purples for Peace, U.N. organs, humanitarian organizations, and legislators have been calling for. You *cannot*

achieve peace when scores of Gazans are being killed every day from Israeli warplanes. The conflict must end, and peace must be restored."

Nristen Snelker maintained her cool, wanting to give everyone a chance to speak. Many times, she gave reactionary individuals, often outright fascists, a platform on the network, wanting to ensure that they would be perceived as fair and balanced. That would include Zionists like Ms. Bendersnoot, or any of the other countless guests. She pivoted off what had been said, to involve the two other guests (Plum Bisessuale and Ashi), and use an oft phrase of her predecessor, who had run the show, Cluck Rod.

"Ms. Bisessuale and Ashi, what say you?"

Plum hated that phrase more than anyone. But that didn't matter now. She realized that she needed to condemn the rudeness and stand up for the so-called "aliens" across the world, those displaced from their homes or discriminated against, which is what her Organizzazione Aliena Viola (OAV) was all about. Dressed the most flamboyantly as compared to any other guest, with her plum-colored hair, with pink bangs, standing out, and her pink shirt and skirt to accompany it, she was not afraid to state what was on her mind.

"Britina is right to call for a permanent ceasefire. The brutal Israeli genocidal slaughter in Gaza has to end. But, we must go much further than that. Like we did with South Africa, sanctions must be imposed by the governments of the world on Israel, companies and organizations need to divest, and goods produced in occupied Palestine need to be boycotted by consumers."

Tanya interjected again. "Damn BDS movement. Does *NO ONE* remember the suffering that Jewish people have endured! Such arguments, like that by Ms. Bisessuale, *justify* the evils of Hamas against Israel. They are avoiding killing innocent Palestinians, you know, but those who want to free Palestine are simply supporting terrorists."

Ashi had the last word. She had encountered people like Ms. Bendersnoot before. They were bred-and-buttered Zionists. There was no doubt about it.

"Israel has the people of Gaza in a *concentration camp*! They are suffocating them to death. All Palestinians are targets of their war crimes, not just those the IDF deems 'innocent.'"

Then she added the clincher, "surely, we must end war and help those who cannot help themselves, but we *cannot* judge the response of oppressed people to state violence and declare they must be peaceful. Hamas is only an outgrowth of what Israel has done over the years. Praying for peace will get us nowhere."

What Ashi had said had infuriated Tanya to no end. She still believed that any criticism, even the slightest possible, of Israel's action, meant that everyone hated Jewish people. This went so far that she believed that respected humanitarian organizations, like the International Red Cross, were somehow in league against Israel. Like Ms. Trong, she believed the wild, inflammatory, idea, that Westerners had been mind-controlled to justify terrorism, not that Israel had caused this situation. At that very point, Nristen

Snelker interjected. She wanted to move the conversation to something that she hoped would be less contentious.

"As you know, public opinion polls have showed rising support for Palestine and declining support for Israel. What do you attribute this to?"

Britina piped up. "Young people are fired up and want to change the world. I salute them for that. It's *so inspiring*! With all the images on social media, is it any surprise that people would sympathize with the Palestinians? We have to give peace a chance."

Tanya slammed her fist on the table so hard it almost cracked. Almost completely ignoring what Britina had said, she cackled like a spotted hyena enjoying its meal.

"It is obvious that Silicon Valley has it out for us Jews. They are letting phrases like 'Free Palestine' and 'From the River to the Sea' spread across their platforms. Its anti-Semitism I'm telling you, and *I'm fed-up*!"

Ashi shook her head. Tanya was not only only a Zionist, plain and simple, but an evil, nasty, and mean-spirited person off-camera. She *had* to set the record straight.

"Neither of those phrases are anti-Jewish," she began. "Any sentiment against Jewish people is coming from the fascists, White nationalists, and other bigoted reactionaries out there, *not* from the those in favor of Palestine. The Zionists are the ones with blood of *dead Palestinians* on their hands. *They* are the ones committing genocide. *They* are the ones maintaining the apartheid state. If anything, social media has bent over backwards *for Zionists*, not the other way around!"

Plum built off what Ashi had said. She wouldn't have used the same forceful words, however, as she chose what she said carefully, while clearly stating what was on her mind.

"Ms. Ashi has a point about social media. They are not to blame here. Israel has broken so many international laws it isn't even funny. There have been over 220 U.N. Security Council resolutions about this Jewish state, primarily on the 'Palestine Question', since 1948."

For Nristen Snelker, she hoped to move to one more topic before bringing the panel discussion to a close.

"Ms. Bisessuale's point about international law brings us to our next topic. Recently, the South African governmental cabinet called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to be referred to the International Criminal Court for war crimes. In addition, a majority of South African parliamentarians voted in favor of ending South African diplomatic relations with Israel unless a ceasefire was reached. Considering Ms. Lunis is an international law expert here, I'd like to direct this to her. Does South Africa have a case before the ICC?"

She cleared her throat and began. She had to be as clear as possible.

"Israel isn't a state party to the Rome Statute, but it *ratified* the Genocide Convention with a March 1950 law; *acceded* to the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Geneva Conventions in 1951; *ratified* the Convention on the Rights of Child in 1991, the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict in 2005, Geneva Protocol III in 2007, the Geneva Protocol on chemical and biological weapons in 1969, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons in 1995, Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Protocols I and II in 1995, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in 1958, and the First Protocol to the aforementioned Hague Convention in 1957. It is bound by *all these agreements*."

While Tanya knew this was all true, she couldn't help but holler. It was in her nature to do so.

"When the U.N. admitted Israel as a member state on March 4, 1949, they called it a "peace-loving State" that will carry out the U.N. Charter obligations. This is still true today, without a doubt, and you all *can't see it!* I mean we had that damn temporary ceasefire and that worked well. Doesn't anyone remember that?"

Plum moved her head from side to side. She could understand why Ashi disliked this woman. Gender doesn't stop someone from being nasty. Surely, men could (and so) see some women this way and tar them with the word, in a misogynist manner. However, it could be, in some instances, an accurate description of behavior, when it came to someone like Tanya.

"The record from the U.N. Security Council *is evident.* In May 1951, November 1953, and March 1955, the U.N. *condemned* Israel for violating a ceasefire established in July 1948. Also, the U.N. *condemned* Israel military reprisal in November 1966, called upon Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories in November 1967, *condemned* Israeli settlement-building in March 1979, March 1980 and December 2016, *criticized* Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights in June 1980, *deplored* Israeli's violations of Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories in December 1987, *condemned* Israeli military actions in October 1990, *called upon* Israel to confiscate arms of Zionist settlers in March 1994, a ceasefire in Gaza in January 2009, at the very least. And that isn't even mentioning any of the U.N. General Assembly resolutions!"

Neither of them had directly answered the question Nristen Snelker had put forward. At that point, Ashi spoke up.

"Obviously, South Africa has a case. Sure, Israel hasn't ratified the Rome Statute, but all the international treaties which Ms. Lunis described apply to them. Using those, they could certainly charge Israel with war crimes. The Western countries, like the U.S., which provide economic, military, and other support to Israel are obviously complicit as well."

Britina had something to say. She was one of the more moderate voices, but she was as enraged about what was happening in Gaza, and the West Bank, as anyone.

"Ashi and Ms. Bisessuale have made valid points, in response to Ms. Snelker's thoughtful question about Israel's criminal liability. Whether a case is brought before the ICC or not, that is the business of the ICC. I *trust* their judgment on this. Ms. Bendersnoot mentioned earlier about the temporary ceasefire. That truce was *only a waiting time* for soldiers. As the U.N. General Assembly called for, in Resolution ES-10/21, there has to be a permanent ceasefire and end to the bloodshed. It is shameful that the U.S. delegation vetoed a Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire and immediate release of hostages. Resolution 377 of the U.N. General Assembly *must be invoked* once more to get around this cowardly veto."

Surely, this conversation could go on. Britina had not mentioned the issue with invoking such a resolution: the tenth emergency special session of the U.N. General Assembly had been ongoing since 1997. Would another invocation of Resolution 377 make a difference? It was hard to know. If it had been Ashi's choice, she probably would have called for the wholesale abolishment of the U.N. and replacement with another organization which can impose more penalties. Such an organization could even have a global parliament or a constitution for the entire planet. This would go beyond those calling for peace-enforcement or organizational U.N. reforms, which some activists had proposed in the past.

Nristen Snelker wanted this conversation to be over, and for her to move onto the last segment, where she did short interviews with four individuals: three students and one rancher.

"That’s all the time we have! I'd like to thank Ilana Lunis, Britina, Plum Bisessuale, Ashi, and Tanya Bendersnoot for an engaging discussion today."

The TV static sizzled. She was ready to move onto the next segment.

"As you know, there is a lot of controversy and debate on college campuses about the Israel-Gaza conflict. But one area which has not been covered as much are the responses by high schoolers. Last week we interviewed Harleen Quinzel and Barbara K. Gordon, two students from Metropolis High School, a city public school, and Tara, a student at Middleton High School, in a modern planned community in the suburbs. We also have a homeschooled student, Joss Possible, who lives on a ranch in rural Montana. Let's start with Barbara Gordon."

"So, talk about the atmosphere there at Metropolis High School. It is tense?"

Babs nodded. "Yeah, it really is. I'm optimistic it will get better…I mean, it's got to, right?"

Her purple hoodie-jacket stood out, as did her iconic white thigh-high socks accentuated with purple and yellow stripes. She tried her best to smile, but it was clearly forced.

A tall thin, and fair-skinned, teen piped up before Babs could follow up that statement. Although their secret identities clashed, as a student, and outside school, Harleen was good friends with Babs. Her look was even more striking, with red lipstick, rosy cheeks,

sky-blue eyes, blonde hair with blue and red highlights, and hair with bangs, and pigtails.

"I have to say, that question, is *leading*, Ms. Snelker," she began. "Propagandhi was fuckin' right! The Gaza Strip will be 'cleansed' of Palestinians, then it will be annihilated, becoming parking lots for damn fascist cops and American touristas. Punk rock rules!"

As Ms. Snelker began to speak, Harleen dropped the mic. She shouted at the top of her lungs, "Fuck Zionism! Fuck militarism! Fuck Americanism! Fuck nationalism! Fuck religion! I'm out."

The censors had trouble keeping up with her curse words. Snelker was *embarrassed*. She didn't expect one of her guests to do this. While she would have asked Babs more questions, since she seemed cheerful, hopeful, and determined, she decided to cut the feed because of Harleen.

She turned to two people she had on a Cloom videoconferencing call. She talked to them from the TV studio, rather than in-person like with Babs and Harleen. *Too many* people used Cloom rather than having teleconferences through phone calls, which had existed for many years. Furthermore, many video chats were *unnecessary and wasteful*, especially when it wasn't needed to see another person's face! However, television was a visual medium, so it made sense she had a video-call rather than a phone call, in this case.

"Tara Hlong and Joss Possible, thanks for joining us today! We'd like to hear your perspectives on this, it would be helpful to our national viewers. Let's begin with Ms. Hlong."

"Thanks for having me on, Ms. Snelker…like its great opportunity to like talk to you, you know. I just wanna party, you know, and like this war is seriously *crimping my style*."

While she said this, she twirled her long, wavy blonde hair, which was a shade of sunny yellow, with her right index finger. Perhaps she was nervous, a bit, but it didn't prevent her from wearing a greenish sleeveless v-neck top, a teal skirt, and black-colored high-heels. It was almost like she was trying to flirt with all the male viewers, as she did often with boys at Metropolis High School.

Joss Possible was very different. She was slim and like her cousin, Kim, but had freckles and was shorter. At the same time, she was adventurous, perky, and a bit of a tomboy too. She didn't mind wearing worn blue overhauls which had oil stains throughout, due to recent oft-tinkering with cybertronics.

"Style is the least of the issue, Ms. Hlong…Israel is engaged in a genocide, there's no doubt about it…even a county bumpkin like me can see that!"

Ms. Snelker sighed. She was glad that there was no one bombastic like Harleen on this video call. However, there were *still* strong opinions, like those from Joss. She knew that

there would likely be push-back from certain people to this discussion anyway, so she decided to persist.

"As you all know, there is an ongoing dispute about the city of Jerusalem, primarily around East Jerusalem's legal status, with many countries believing that the city should be the capital of Israel and Palestine. What say you?"

Tara's easy-going, nice, and outgoing nature faded away. When she was scared, she usually panicked, and became a follower. "I…don't know…I don't concern myself with issues like that."

Joss shook her head. It was clearly a weak answer. Even so, Joss knew better than to embarrass her, on national television, nonetheless.

"Ms. Snelker, thanks for the question. While there could be negotiation, but there is a simpler solution: put Jerusalem under international control and confer it special status, as per U.N. resolutions *in 1947 and 1948*."

Although the proposal was never implemented, due to a rejection by Palestinian and Arab leaders, then the first Arab-Israeli war which split the city between Israel and Jordan, she wanted to revive the idea, nonetheless. She knew about the wide international support for Jerusalem as a dual capital, split between Israel and Palestine. But she detested this idea. Her position for such a changed status for the city was shared by the European Union, the Vatican, and even the U.S. government (before 2017).

This discussion had gone much better than Ms. Snelker had hoped. She declared "that's all the time we have" and waved goodbye to Joss and Tara, who waved back. With the screen disappearing, she turned to the audience.

"See you all next week. If it's Sunday, it's Meet the Mess."

She continued to sit in her cushy leather chair as the credits continued rolling. She would be back on the hot seat in one week, bringing in guests about another topic entirely, hoping to improve the network's ratings after Cluck Rod had dominated the show for so many years.

End Notes

Some names, like "Nristen Snelker" is a play-off Kristen Welker, "Meet the Mess" is a play-off "Meet the Press", or "Mender Bothball" to be a play-off "Spencer Rothball". Originally, I was going to call it the "Sherman Institute" but learning it was a boarding school for Indigenous people, I decided another name was better. Also, I added "Bisessuale" (which is Italian for bisexual) for Plum's last name and "Hlong" for Tess's last name. "Organizzazione aliena viola" means "purple alien organization" in Italian since Plum is a purple extraterrestrial (i.e., a Merewif). "Cambion Remembrances" refers to that fact that Ashi is half-demon and half-human named "Cambion."

Also, I used the entries for "Harley Quinn (G2)" and "Batgirl (G2)" on the DC Super Hero Girls fandom site, "Tanya" page on Futurama fandom site, "Lunis Family" and "Ilana" pages on Sym-Bionic Titan fandom site, "Britina," "Tara," and "Joss Possible" pages on the Kim Possible fandom site, "Ashi" page on the Samurai Jack fandom site, and "Plum" on the Bravest Warriors fandom site. In the case of this fic, "Cloom" is a stand-in for Zoom. I also summarized some of the text from the "Corpus separatum (Jerusalem)" Wikipedia page at one point.

I am also thinking of doing a similar fic for Mandy Moore (who voiced Rapunzel throughout the Tangled franchise and Mara in Tron: Uprising), Mark Hamill (who voiced Skeletor in Masters of the Universe: Revelation, Art Rosenbaum in Invincible, Dictatious in Trollhunters, Mr. Block in Milo Murphy's Law, Joker in many animated productions, many characters in Regular Show and Johnny Bravo), and many others, who have also stated their support for Israel on social media. Otherwise, I think it's interesting there are only TWO fics shipping Joss with Kim since being a tomboy can be an indicator (but is not always) that someone is a lesbian.

Works inspired by this one

A Responsibility to Prevent Genocide?: Royalty, Revolution, and Bloody Zionists by lefemmerouge2

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